

meeting with Commerce Secretary Evans and Trade Representative Zoellick. This would give the President a chance to right mistake number seven of his administration, which is trade. The United States last year ran over a \$500 billion trade deficit. We have exported hundreds of thousands of manufacturing and now high-technology jobs outsourced under the Bush administration. And their response has been, from the President's chief economist Mr. Mankiw, this is a good thing, it is efficiency.

It is not a good thing. It is not efficiency. Americans need jobs. We need an economy. We need an industrial base. That is wrong-headed thinking.

So today they have got a chance in meeting with Vice Premier Wu to rectify the mistake of their trade policies. The mistake is at the insistence of President Bush, this Congress voted to give China, the Communist Government of China, permanent most favored nation or special trade status.

We gave up the right to annually review their compliance with trade laws. Big mistake. But the President said, Do not worry, I have a plan. Yes, he is right. They are stealing our products and our intellectual property left and right. Yes, they have violated five agreements on stealing our intellectual property and our products over the last 5 years or 7 years. But he had a plan. He was going to put them in the World Trade Organization because the President is big on rules-based trade.

So the President got his way. China is now in the World Trade Organization, and guess what? Last year, according to statistics of the Chinese Government, let alone our own government which will not talk about these things, they counterfeited and stole between \$20- and \$24 billion of U.S. products and intellectual property. Those are the numbers of the Communist Chinese Government about how much they are stealing.

Has the President filed one, one single complaint in his rules-based trade organization, the WTO, against the theft of product, property by the Chinese Government? No, not a single one. Yet I have a company in my district, Videx. Their company not only had their property stolen by China, they were totally cloned. The Chinese put up a fake Website to attract people with a little waving American flag on it, saying they were an American company, made an inferior product, have stolen the Chinese market, and now are stealing the Asian market from this American company.

I thought this is a no-brainer. The President likes rules-based trade. So I appealed to the Commerce Secretary and to the President. I said, help this company. They are not big enough to fight the Government of China. And the response was, no, we will not help that company because the big companies in the United States who are manufacturing in China do not care about the theft of property. In fact, they

think it might hurt their interest in accessing cheap labor and avoiding environmental laws and outsourcing jobs to China. So the Bush administration will not lift a hand to help Videx. The only response we have gotten was Lou Dobbs and Moneyline, and after my company Videx was on Lou Dobbs and Moneyline, they got calls from all over America, from other small businesses who have been stolen blind by the Chinese Government. And the response of the Bush administration is to do nothing.

They are having meetings today with Vice Premier Wu. She is going to give them the same empty assurances the Chinese have given us for the last decade: Oh, we will stop stealing \$24 billion a year worth of our product, sure. Do my colleagues believe that? I do not believe that, and I cannot believe that the President or his administration believes that. So what they should do today is tell the Chinese they are in the WTO, they said they would follow the rules, they are not, and that we are informing them today if they do not shape up by next week, then we are going to the WTO with complaints on the theft of products from Videx and dozens of other small companies across America.

This is an administration that supposedly cares about small business, yet when small business is being robbed blind by the Chinese, and big business says, hey, do not upset the Chinese apple cart, we are manufacturing really cheap over there, \$1-a-day labor, now they might get upset with us, and they might charge us \$1.25 a day for the labor over there, or they might even let them have a labor union or something else.

Help America's small business. Help them to fight the Communist Chinese Government. Help stop stealing America blind. Help stop stealing our industrial and intellectual base, and help turn around the international trade deficit. That is a mistake the President can begin to undo today in these conversations with Vice Premier Wu.

THE ANNAN PLAN FOR CYPRUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, for all of my 22 years in Congress, I have constantly and loudly proclaimed the need for a peaceful reunification of the Republic of Cyprus. That unification must be just and balanced.

Thus I rise here today to voice my serious concerns with the Annan plan for the reunification of Cyprus. I believe that the final version of the plan which was submitted on March 31, 2004, is unbalanced and biased against the Greek-Cypriots.

There are a number of provisions in the Annan plan that do not alleviate the basic fears of the Greek-Cypriot community. These concerns were not

appropriately resolved and may very well lead the Greek-Cypriots to reject the Annan plan. Security issues regarding the number of troops that will remain on the island and clarifying the Treaty of Guarantee to exclude military intervention are two major concerns for the Greek-Cypriots because Turkey insists that it will continue to have the right to intervene militarily in Cyprus. This Turkish arrogance increases the Greek-Cypriot fear of a repetition of the 1974 invasion and its tragic consequences.

The plan also would permit the vast majority of approximately 115,000 Turkish settlers who are now illegally in Cyprus to stay in Cyprus. At the same time, the plan sets complicated and restrictive provisions regarding the right of Greek-Cypriot refugees to return to their homes in the north. Additionally, the Annan plan makes the eventual return of territories from the northern part of the island to the Greek-Cypriot constituent state dependent upon the goodwill of Turkey and Turkish-Cypriots.

On the issue of property rights, the Annan plan allows for one-third restitution and two-thirds compensation for property owned in the north by Greek-Cypriots who will be losing the use of their properties. The funds for the restitution and compensation will be guaranteed by the Federal State and the Constituent State. Since nine-tenths of the Federal State's resources and 100 percent of the Constituent State's resources will be derived from Greek-Cypriots, they will be paying for, to a large extent, their own loss of property.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to state that the Greek-Cypriots are asked to trust, to trust the Turkish Government and to have faith that the Turkish-Cypriot leaders will keep their promises. The problem is that since 1974, neither the leaders of the Government of Turkey nor Mr. Denktash has ever given the Greek-Cypriots any reason to trust them.

Each side will decide whether the plan would be beneficial for them and for the future of their children. Even though both sides knew they were not going to get everything they wanted, each side was guaranteed a fair plan and one that would be immediately functional. Unfortunately, I do not believe the Annan plan is balanced, and we should not be surprised if the Greek-Cypriot people do not support it.

The Cypriot people hold the future in their hands. During this difficult time, it would be inexcusable, Mr. Speaker, for foreign governments or organizational heads to exert excessive pressure or to issue ultimatums to the people and President of Cyprus to vote one way or the other. They must be free of pressure and free to vote with their conscience. If the plan is voted down, it would be an indication that the Greek-Cypriots, whose country suffered an illegal invasion in 1974, and a community which has for three decades advocated for a settlement, felt that they

would be giving up far more than they would be gaining, and that cost, Mr. Speaker, is just too high.

MISTAKES MADE IN THE WAR WITH IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, in the last press conference, the President was asked if he had made any mistakes and what lessons had he learned. And what the President said was, I wish you had given me this written question ahead of time so I could plan for it. I am sure historians will look back and say, gosh, he could have done it better this way or that way. I am just not sure something will pop into my head here in the midst of this press conference with all the pressure of trying to come up with an answer, but it has not yet.

So kind of as a public service, a number of us are coming down to the floor to offer, for the President's consideration, a list of some mistakes that he might want to call up so he does not have to fumble around for an answer at the next press conference, if he has another public press conference.

One of the things that actually is surprising to me that this mistake happened at all, given what we know now, is the long lead-up to the war in Iraq, that they actually had been planning, and bases were being built, and air space to land was being constructed, was a failure to provide the troops with the protection they needed when they were put into harm's way. It surprises me that that mistake was made.

In some cases mistakes have been somewhat corrected, we think; so it would not even hurt the President to mention the fact that as recently as last October, a quarter of our troops in Iraq were lacking in the ceramic-plated body armor that would deflect the bullets that were coming their way. We are told that that has been corrected, although as recently as just a few weeks ago, families are still buying those at about \$1,500 a crack for their soldiers just to make sure that they are well equipped. But we know that still the Humvees do not have the proper armor, some of them still do not have the proper armor. A helicopter was shot down that did not have the missile detector that helicopters are supposed to have in order to be fully equipped.

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I met the aunt of one of the soldiers who died in that last Sunday. She would think that that was a mistake that the President made and something he might want to mention.

He could have talked about a mistake making soldiers pay for their travel home when they would come on rest and recreation, R&R. In order to get to their homes once they were

landed in the U.S., they were paying their own way. That, I understand, has been corrected.

Or we just heard yesterday from the 333rd Military Police Unit in Freeport that was supposed to be coming home this week, that in fact they got redeployed; but all their equipment, their personal foot lockers, had been sent home, and now the families, at their own expense, are shipping the equipment back to their soldiers. They are having to buy all new uniforms. It seems that was a mistake in planning, according to some of the families. Maybe they could have planned better. That is a mistake, and it could be corrected somewhat, at least to reimburse the families that are having to ship back.

But it is not just those soldiers that are in harm's way, who are losing their lives now, unfortunately, sadly, horribly, in record numbers in the last little while; but it is the veterans. Again, it is astonishing that this President would not make sure that at the very least those who come home are well taken care of.

There was a mistake, and it has been corrected. He could cite that. Our wounded soldiers were being charged for food at the hospitals when they came home. Incredible. Now that has been fixed; they are not being charged for that food. But many were languishing with inadequate care in Army barracks when they came home.

Then, right now, this minute, 30,000 veterans are waiting 6 months or longer for appointments at VA hospitals, new increases are proposed in the cost of veterans health care for up to 1 million veterans, and long-term care funding has been slashed. It is really incredible.

What the veterans organizations are saying is that actually the amount of money allocated to veterans is millions of dollars short of what it needs to be. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) actually has a proposal that would add \$2.5 billion for veterans health care. The President could acknowledge that it is a mistake to mistreat our veterans, and he could support the bill of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) to restore that money.

He could do something about the fact that he has been refusing to end the survivor benefit penalty. There are a lot of things, a lot of mistakes. We think the President ought to acknowledge some of them and fix them up.

ADDRESSING THE SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to call attention to a piece of legislation that I introduced, along with

my colleagues, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), to address the shortage of medical laboratory personnel, H.R. 623.

The United States is facing a severe and increasing problematic shortage of qualified laboratory personnel. Many rural areas and areas served by smaller hospitals are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain qualified laboratory workers.

The vital role medical laboratory professionals play in health care must be recognized. Between 70 to 75 percent of all medical diagnoses are based on laboratory test results. But because these important health care practitioners seldom have direct patient contact, their important role in health care often goes unnoticed by patients. Ensuring that our Nation's laboratories possess the human resources, that is, laboratory professionals, to accurately process laboratory testing demands is critical to patient health.

The U.S. Department of Labor projects that approximately 13,200 medical laboratory professionals will be needed each year through 2010. Unfortunately, fewer than 5,000 individuals are graduating from accredited training programs each year.

The bill includes a scholarship program to help students meet their academic education and clinical training expenses. It provides for loan forgiveness by working in areas designated as having a shortage of medical laboratory personnel or allied health practitioners. In addition, this legislation establishes a program to provide awards to individuals who teach medical laboratory science.

These are just a few of the important measures created in H.R. 623. I would encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

MISTAKES THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 8 days ago at the Presidential news conference, only the third he had done in prime time since he has been President, the President was asked just sort of an obvious question that we all deal with from time to time in our lives, political or not, tell us about one of the biggest mistakes you have made.

The President kind of looked a little deer-in-the-headlights and he said, "I am sure something will pop into my head here in the midst of this press conference, but with all of the pressure of trying to come up with an answer, it just hasn't yet."

We would today like to try to help the President, not because we want to criticize President Bush, but because we want to help him learn from his mistakes.

We see several of the mistakes here, from veterans cuts, to trickle-down tax